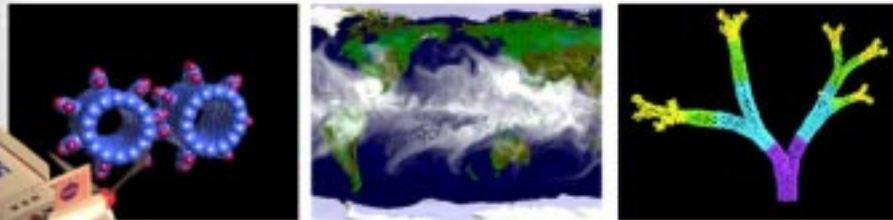




# Information Technology Strategic Research Overview



**David Alfano, Manager, IT Strategic Research  
NASA Ames Research Center**

**NRC Review of PRT  
June 10-14, 2002**



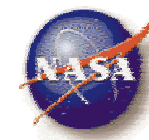
# ***Presentation Overview***

---

<b>IT Strategic Research Overview - David Alfano</b>	<b>20min</b>
<b>High Confidence Software - Mike Lowry</b>	<b>20min</b>
<b>Intelligent Controls &amp; Diagnostics - Joe Totah</b>	<b>20min</b>
<b>Bio/Nanotechnology - Harry Partridge</b>	<b>30min</b>
<b>Revolutionary Computing Algorithms - Benny Toomarian</b>	<b>10min</b>
<b>Evolvable Systems - Jason Lohn</b>	<b>10min</b>

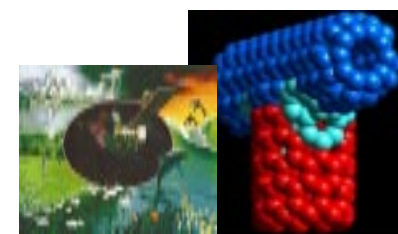


# NASA Mission Requirements for CICT Technology



NASA Mid- and Long-Term Mission Plans are reliant on the availability of advanced information technologies:

- **Smarter more intelligent, collaborative systems including:**
  - *Autonomous spacecraft control and scientific discovery*
  - *Intelligent sensor webs and cooperating constellations*
  - *Integrated human/robotic explorers*
- **Advanced computing and communication systems including:**
  - *Breakthrough science and engineering simulation capabilities*
  - *Mobile, distributed analysis, data mining, and collaboration capabilities*
  - *Pervasive Earth-to-deep space NASA web technologies to support robotic and human exploration*
- **Information Technology Strategic Research, including:**
  - *Intelligent controls and diagnostics*
  - *Evolvable systems*
  - *High confidence software*
  - *Biotechnology and nanotechnology*
  - *Revolutionary computing concepts*



QuickTime™ and a Photo - JPEG decompressor are needed to see this picture.



# ***IT Strategic Research***



## ***Goal:***

**IT Strategic Research is the area of the CICT Program where the very new and unfolding technologies are explored and evaluated for benefit to the Agency, Enterprises, and their Programs. ITSR provides the “seed corn” in technologies from which the revolutionary technologies elsewhere in the Program and Enterprises will spring.**

## ***Objectives:***

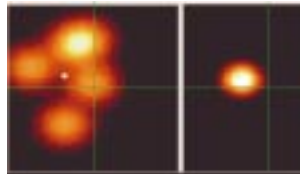
- **Explore and evaluate a broad collection of technologies for their suitability to enable revolutions in the way NASA’s missions are accomplished.**
- **Research, develop, and evaluate a broad portfolio of fundamental information and bio/nano technologies for infusion into NASA missions.**



# IT Strategic Research Roadmap



**Mission  
Impact**



Enterprise Benefit  
(notional)

**Capabilities**

- Scalable aerospace software verification technology

- Next-generation evolutionary algorithms

- Third-generation neural flight control algorithms

- Evolutionary algorithms for on-board space computation

- Nanoscale assembly techniques

**2001-2005**

- Auto-synthesis of certified software systems

- Self-reconfiguring hardware systems

- Biomimetic control architectures

- Quantum algorithms for computationally hard problems

- Biomolecular systems

**2005-2010**

- Widespread robotic construction of software

- Defect-tolerant, self-improving micro spacecraft

- Intelligent Maneuvering

- Revolutionary computing platforms

- Self-repairing nanosystems

**2010-2015**

R, S, M, Y

S, R, M, Y

R, S, M

Y, S

R, S, M, Y, U





# *Alignment with Enterprise Goals*

---

*ITSR is exploring revolutionary and breakthrough research in alignment with Enterprise goals:*

## **Aerospace Technology (Code R):**

“Develop new technologies to enable innovative and less expensive research and flight missions.”

## **Human Exploration and the Development of Space (Code M):**

“Invest in the development of high-leverage technologies to enable safe, effective and affordable human/robotic exploration.”

“Enable human exploration through collaborative robotic missions.”

## **Space Science (Code S):**

“Develop new technologies to enable innovative and less expensive research and flight missions.”

“Use robotic science missions as forerunners to human exploration beyond low-Earth orbit.”

## **Earth Science (Code Y):**

“Develop advanced technologies to enable mission success and serve national priorities.”

## **Biological and Physical Research (Code U):**

“Develop strategies to maximize scientific research output on the ISS and other space research platforms.”

“Identify mechanisms of health risk and potential physiological and psychological problems to humans living and working in space, and begin developing countermeasures.”





# Alignment with Enterprise Needs



## NASA Challenges

Goal-Directed, Reliable, Adaptable and Self-Healing Systems for Aerospace, Planetary Exploration and Space Missions



Science community desires more science data



Agency need to keep up with newer technologies to meet mission requirements



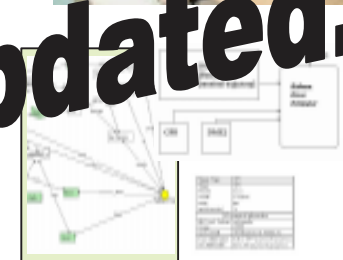
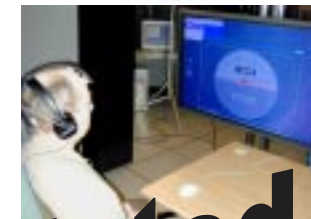
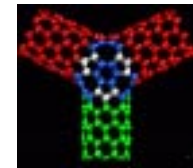
Need to balance need for breakthrough technologies with investment limits



Transition of new technologies to missions

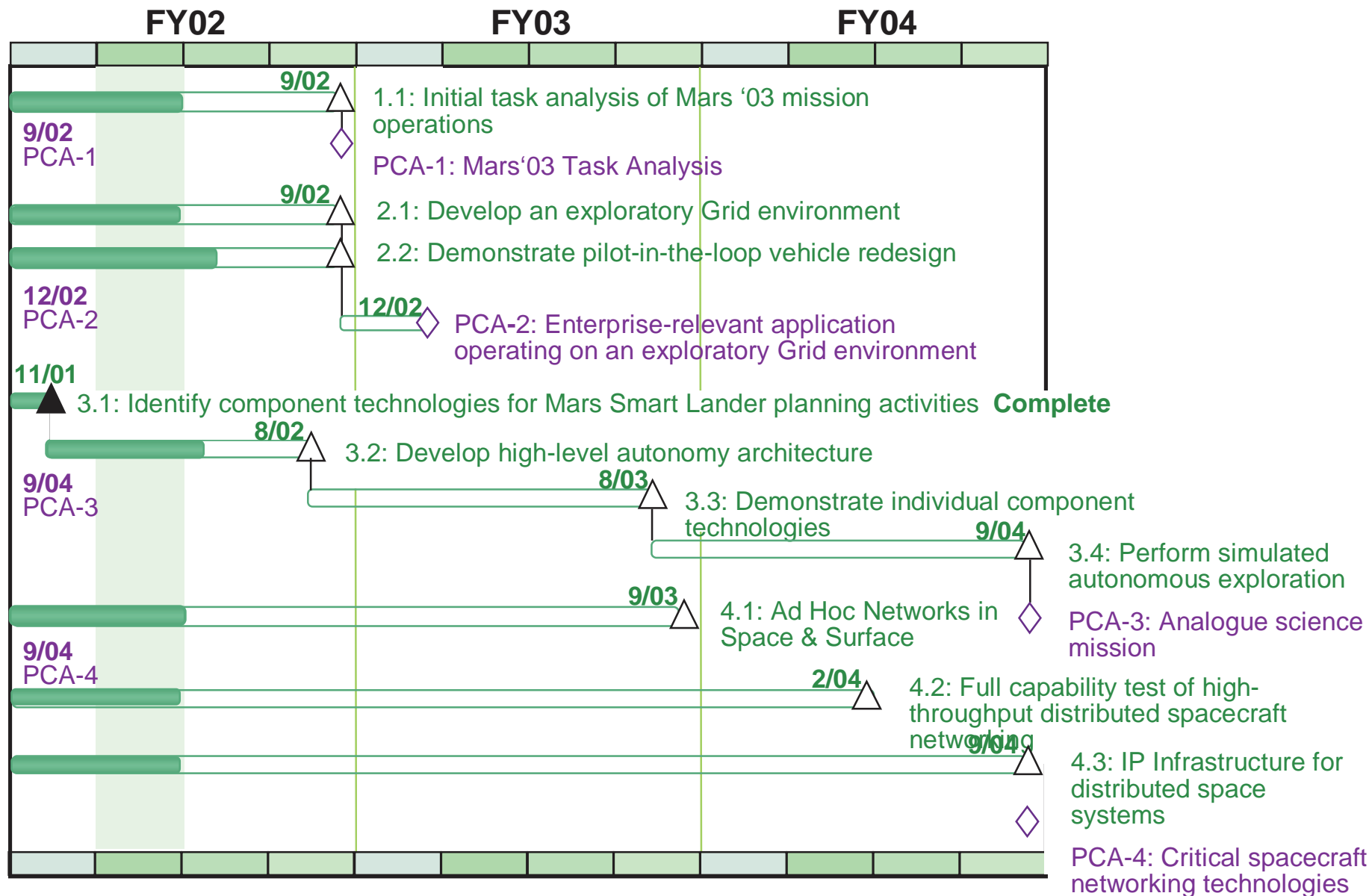
## Technology Solutions

- High-confidence software verification and synthesis
- Evolvable systems for survivability/function
- Neural-based control of vehicles and systems
- New human/machine interface modalities
- Bio-inspired and nanoscale computing and electronics
- Algorithms for quantum computing



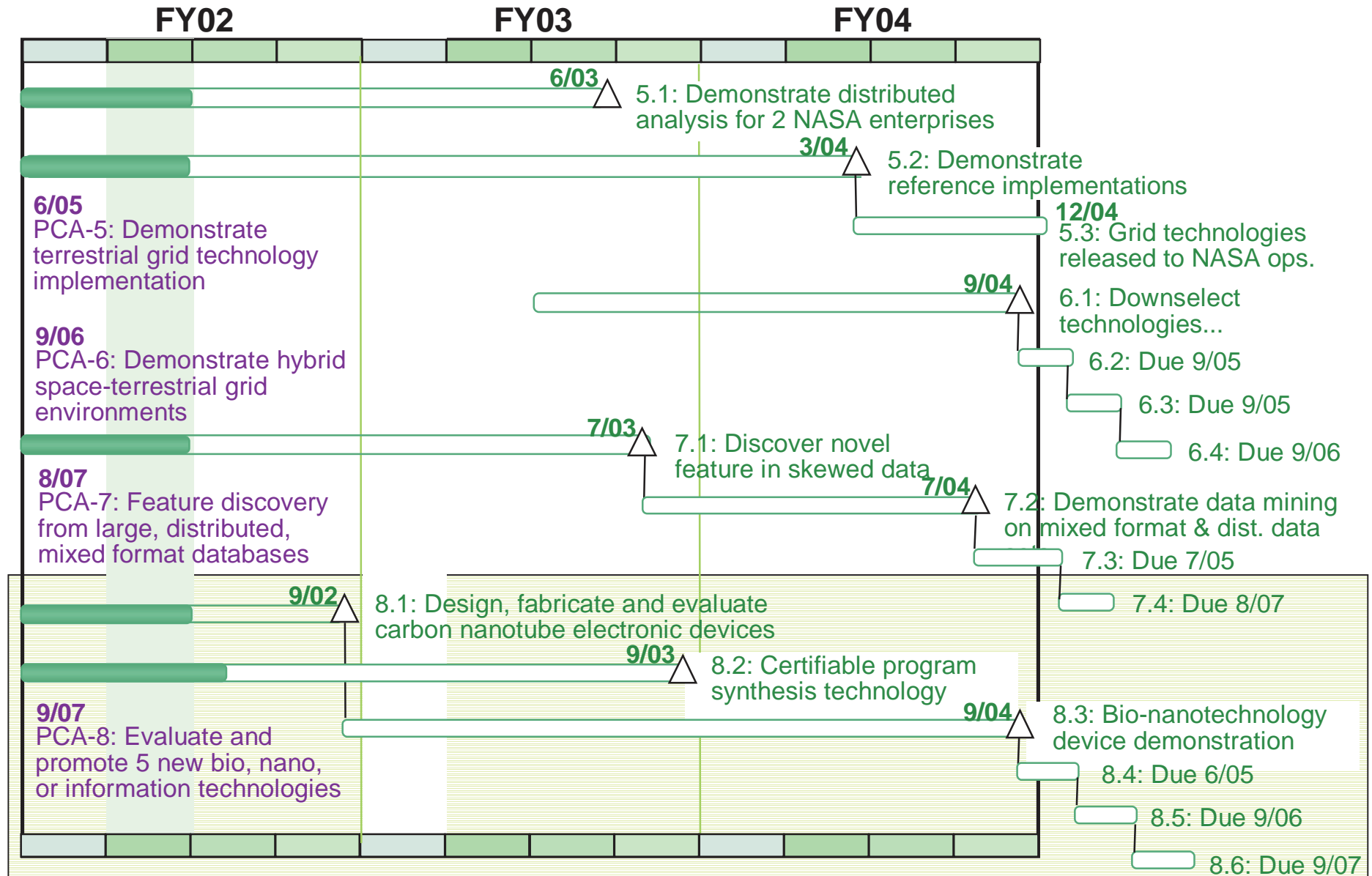
**to be updated...**

# CICT PCA/Program FY02-04 Milestones





# CICT PCA/Program FY02-04 Milestones





# ITSR Project/Program

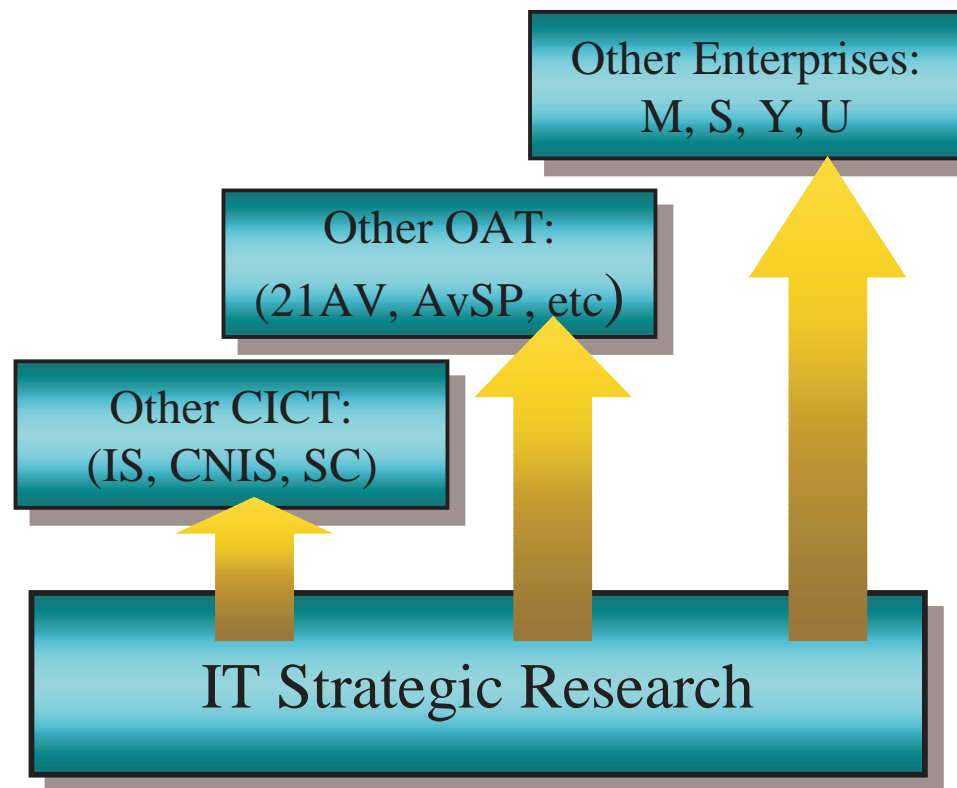
Reference:	Milestone	Due Date
PCA-8	Bio/nanotechnology device demonstration	September-02
8.1	Design, fabricate and evaluate carbon nanotube electronic devices	September-02
	Fabricate nanoelectronic device based on CNT nanowire and SAM molecular wire (FAA).	March-02
8.2	Certifiable program synthesis technology	September-02
	Complete initial extended program synthesis engine.	March-02
	Initial prototype for combined certification engine for domain-specific, programming-language specific, and effectiveness properties using annotations generated through program synthesis.	December-02
8.3	Bio-nanotechnology device demonstration	September-02
	Electrochemical detection of DNA hybridization with CNT based sensor device (NCI).	March-02
	Demonstration of nanotube biosensors for detection of cancer molecular signatures (NCI).	December-02
8.4	Nanodevice self-assembly	June-02
	Directed deposition of metals (Zn, Ni, Au) on surfaces using self-assembled protein structures (2D crystals and filaments) to make nano-wires or conduits.	April-02
8.5	Strategic and tactical maneuvering for aerospace vehicles	September-02
	Perform tactical maneuver selection tests in a simulated environment.	
	Integrate capabilities of diagnostics with multimodal interface applied to C-17 engine data.	March-02
8.6	Neuro-electric machine control	September-02
	Analyze signals for EEG-based and demonstrate silent speech	September-02
	Classify at least 8 patterns of sub-vocal speech	June-02





# *ITSR as Technology Incubator*

- IT Strategic Research explores new and revolutionary concepts in information technology, and provides proof-of-concept demonstrations as well as low-TRL technology maturation.
- ITSR technologies are handed off to other CICT Projects, other OAT Programs, and/or other Enterprise Programs and Missions.



# ***ITSR Evolution Plan & Investment Strategy***

---



## **Selection Criteria:**

- Likely to revolutionize some aspect of NASA missions
- Alignment with and impact to Agency Missions and Goals
- Return on Investment assessment
- ITSR Funding Profile
- Critical skills necessary
- Recommendations of external technical advisory committees/Mission Needs Council prioritization
- Current Technology Readiness Level (TRL) (not greater than 6)

## **Annual Project Evaluation:**

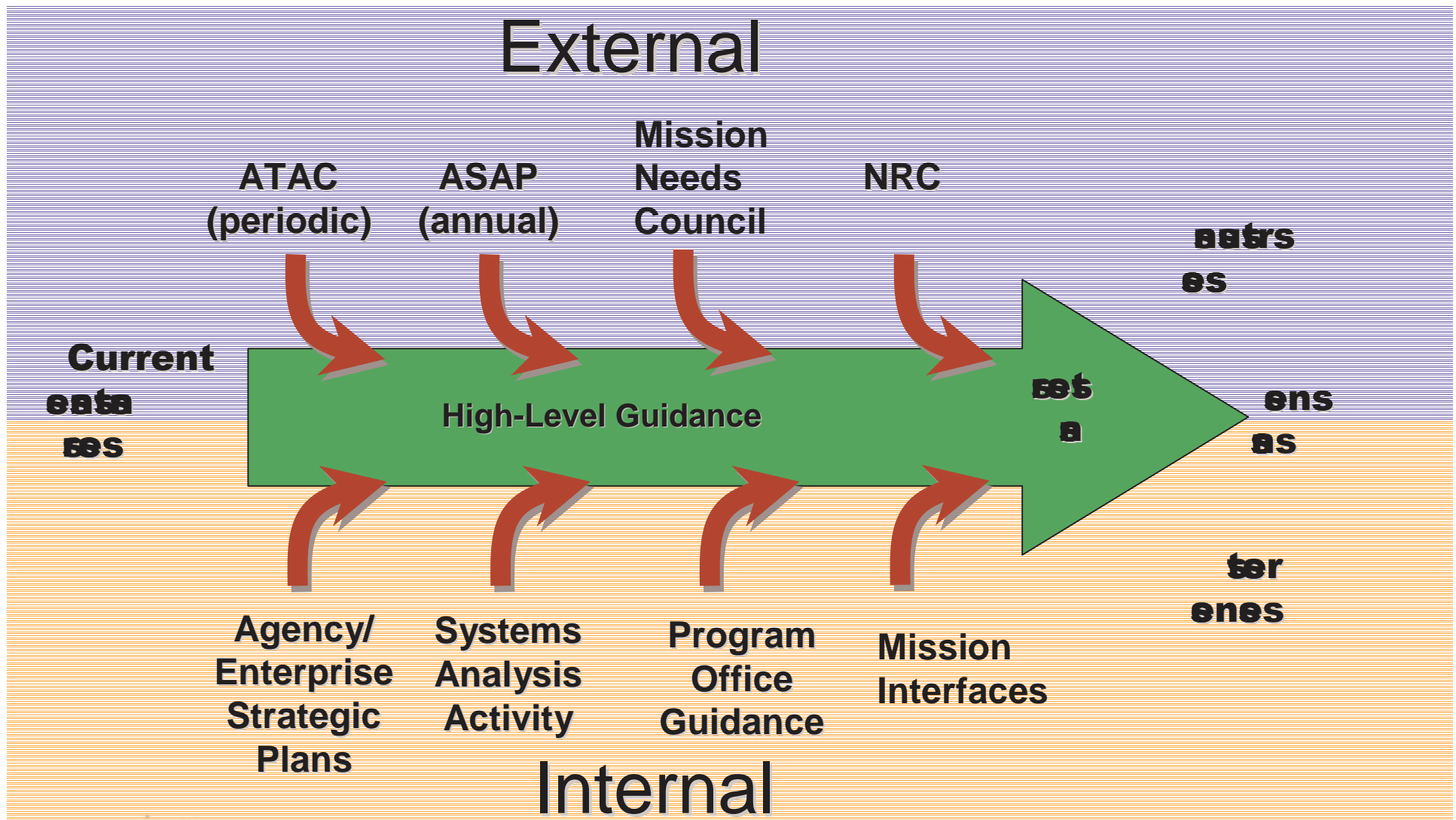
- Agency alignment analysis (qualitative, updated annually)
- ITSR Systems Analysis (quantitative, updated annually)
- Analysis of opportunities
- Project Review

## **Transfer/Maturation Plan:**

- Each investment area has conclusion defined
- Customer(s) Identified and technology transfer plan in place by mid-term of development activities
- No funding beyond TRL 6 - transfer to other project or Program

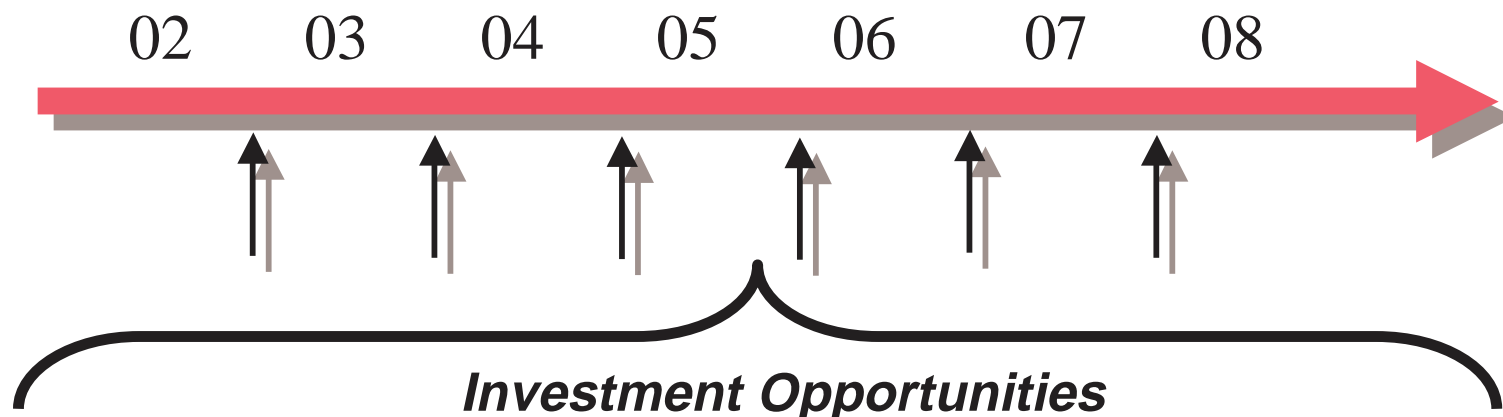


# ITSR Investment Strategy Flow





# Sources for ITSR Task/Subtask Genesis



- Enterprise Programs
  - Solicit needs from Enterprises
  - Interface with Enterprise advance planning efforts
- Proposals on requirements from Mission Needs Council
- Code R programs which have CICT requirements which can only be met by developing currently low-TRL technologies
- Comments/recommendations from technical advisory committees
- Competitive sourcing (NRA, BAA) under general topic areas
- Proposals from Enterprise representatives – Code R, Code M, Code U, Code Y, Code S
- Proposals from the research staff







# *ITSR Agency Alignment*

---

## Aerospace Technology

- Increase Safety – Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics
- Increase Mobility – Bio/Nanotechnology – materials
- Mission Safety – Intelligent Controls and Diagnostics, High Confidence Software
- Mission Affordability, Complexity – High Confidence Software
- Mission Reach – Evolvable Systems
- Enable rapid, high confidence, and cost efficient design – ICD, HCS, Evolvable Systems
- Revolutionary Technologies – Revolutionary Computing Algorithms, Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics

Human Exploration and Development of Space

Biological and Physical Research

Space Science

Earth Science



**To be fully  
populated...**

# Information Technology Strategic Research



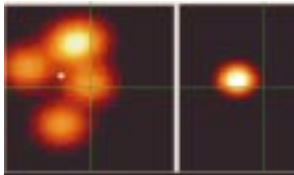
## Bio/Nano Technologies

*Biomolecular and nanoscale systems and tools for assembly and computing*



## Evolvable Systems

*Autonomous self-improving, self-repairing hardware and software for survivable space systems in extreme environments*



## **IT Strategic Research:**

***Research, develop and evaluate a broad portfolio of fundamental information and bio/nano technologies for infusion into NASA missions.***

## Automated Software Engineering Technologies

*Formal methods, high-assurance software design, and program synthesis*



## Revolutionary Computing

*New computational models to increase capability and robustness to enable future NASA space missions*

## Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics

*Next-generation machine learning, adaptive control, and health management technologies*



Ames Research Center

# Information Technology Strategic Research

(Technology Research Portfolio Overview)



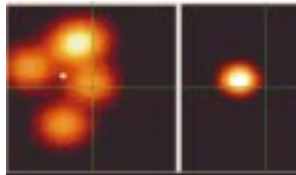
## **Bio/Nano Technologies**

- *Nanoscale Assembly*
- *Nanoscale Electronics & Computing*
- *Biomolecular Systems*



## **Evolvable Systems**

- *Adaptation and Learning*
- *Optimization and Design*
- *Reconfiguration and Reuse*
- *Biologically inspired technologies*



**IT Strategic Research:**  
*Research, develop and evaluate a broad portfolio of fundamental information and bio/nano technologies for infusion into NASA missions.*

## **Automated Software Engineering Technologies**

- *Formal Methods*
- *High Assurance S/W Design*
- *Program Synthesis*



## **Revolutionary Computing**

- *Physics-inspired architectures*
- *Biology-inspired architectures*
- *Space computing*

## **Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics**

- *Fundamental neural flight control research*
- *Neuroelectric machine control*
- *Intelligent Automation*
- *Smart sensing & diagnostic technologies*

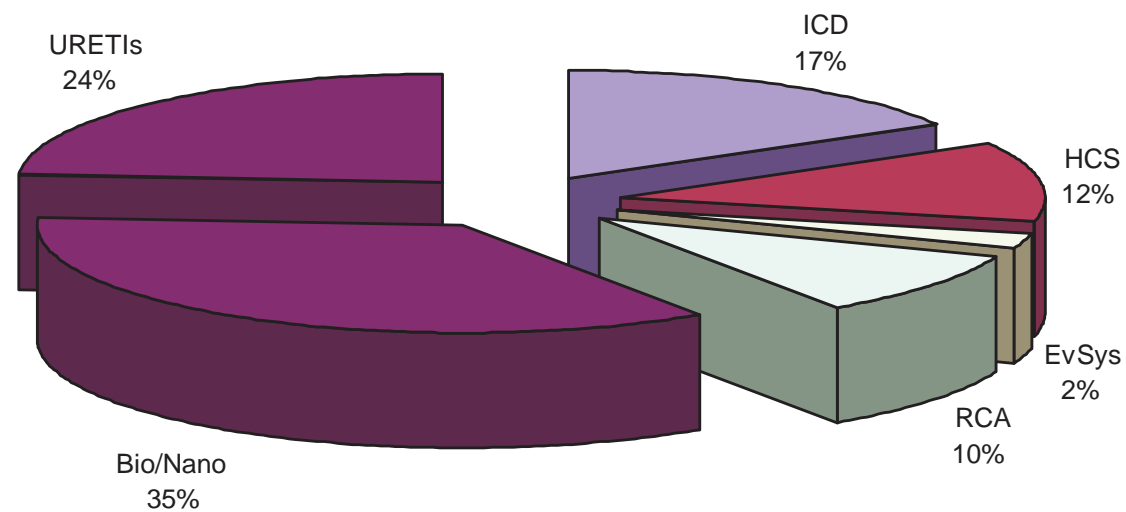


Ames Research Center

# ITSR Resources, FY02

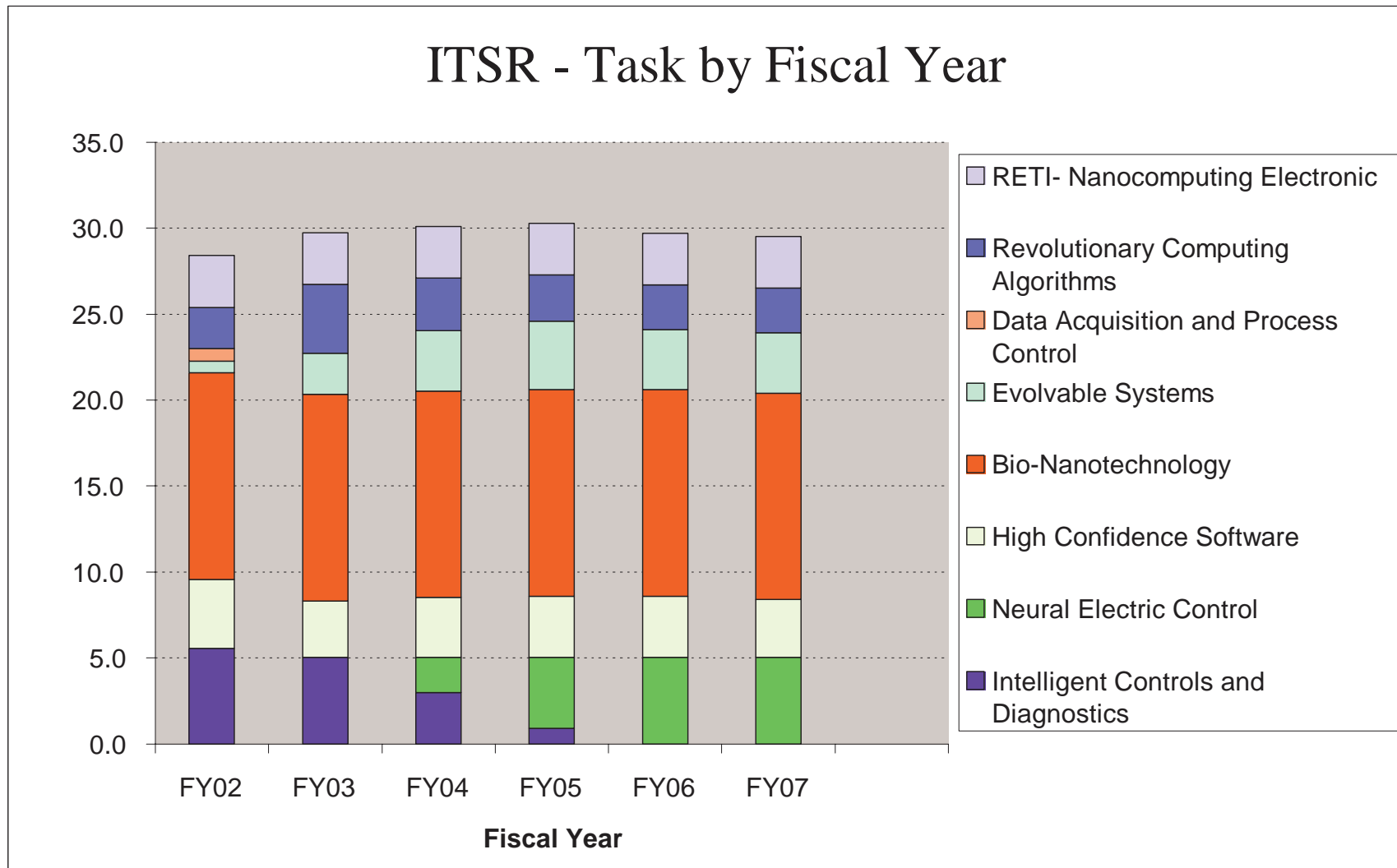


## ITSR Funds Distribution, FY02 (Total: \$28.4M)





# ITSR Funding Profile, Outyears





# Automated Software Engineering Technologies



FY02 Distribution (\$4.1M)

## Goal:

“Develop automated mathematical techniques for the software development process, yielding tools for the cost-effective development of high confidence, highly reliable software systems for aerospace applications.”

## Technology Development

- Scalable Software model checking
- Automated program abstraction
- State-space search algorithms
- Formal method verification of integrated modular avionics design

- Program generation through automated reasoning.
- Product-oriented certification methods
- Automated tools that certify automatically synthesized code.

- Generate runtime monitors from requirements specs.
- Automated Behavioral verification
- Machine learning to optimize exploration of potential behaviors.
- Automated generation of software fault recovery.

## Capabilities

Analytically verify next-generation Aerospace software.

Certifiable Program Synthesis

Adaptive, Integrated Software Verification and Monitoring Technology

2002

2003

2006

2007

## Applications/ Missions



Honeywell, Code S



MDS (Mars'09)



Codes M and S



## Target (Impact)

Verification of concurrent, advanced aerospace software architectures and code.

Rapid exploration of design space for navigation software, with new methods for high-confidence and cost-effective certification.

Software that monitors itself, and recovers from faults at runtime with minimal computational overhead.





# Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics/Neuro Electric Machine Control

FY02 Distribution (\$5.2M)

## Goal:

“Improve component/subsystem safety and integrated system performance, as well as reduce development time and operational cost.”

## Technology Development

- Hybrid Neural Flight Control System
- Maneuver Sequence Selection Methods
- Anomaly Detection Algorithms

- Trajectory Planning System
- Integrated H/W & S/W Diagnostics
- Design Integration Principles for Health Management

- Combined EMG/EEG Control
- Intelligent Automation for Control and Diagnostics

## Capabilities

Damage Adaptive Control  
Engine Health Monitoring

Strategic and Tactical Maneuvering  
Integrated Controls and Diagnostics

Multi-modal Machine Control  
Mission-Level Control and Interface

2002

2004

2006

2007

## Applications/ Missions



FR and ECS

AvSP and UEET

IS/AR

DARPA and IS/HCC

## Target (Impact)

Improved Handling Qualities  
Following Damage (CH  
Rating Scale Level  
Improvement 1-2)

Engine Health/Perf. Monitoring  
(US Patent for Advanced HUMS  
New Adaptive Cooling Control  
For Active Blade Clearance)

Automated Maneuvering  
System for UAV's  
(New metrics for Maneuver  
Selection Effectiveness)

NeuroElectric Interfaces  
(Improved Human  
Communication,  
Monitoring and Control)



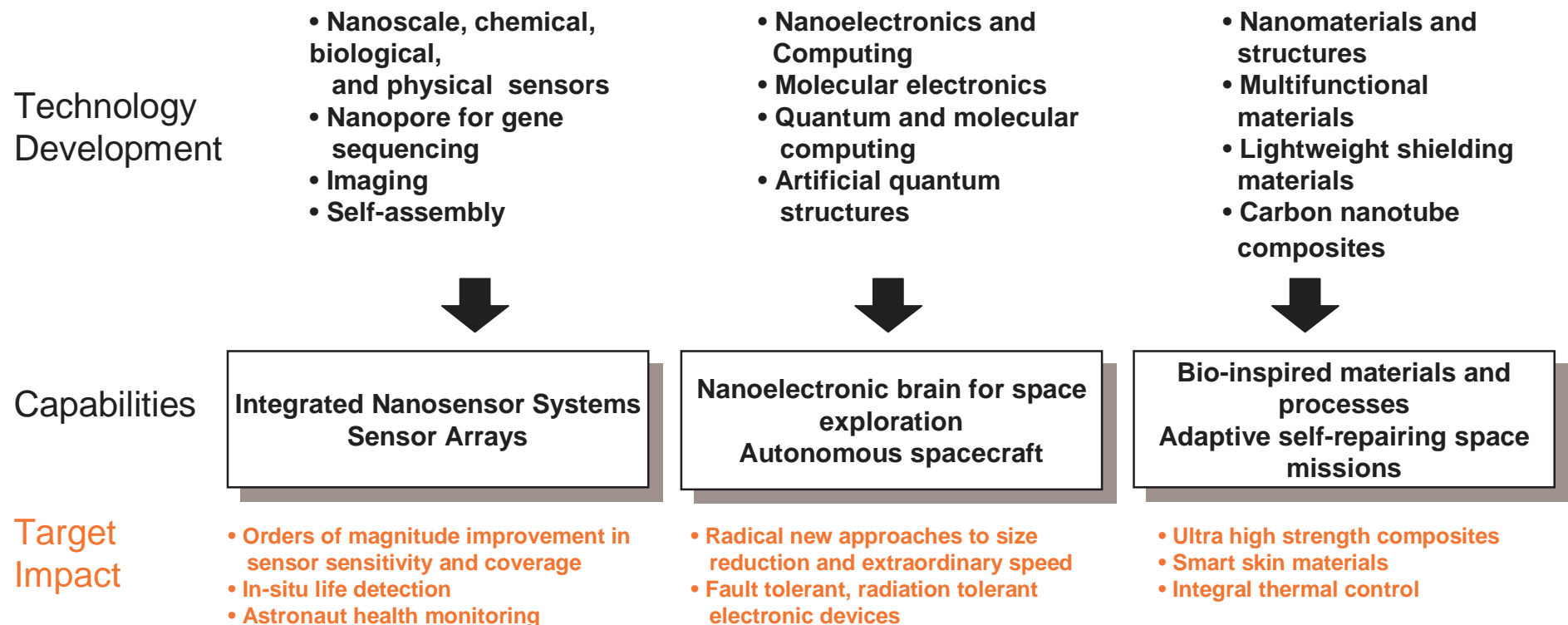
# Bio/Nanotechnology

FY02 Distribution (\$12.4M)

## Goal:

Leverage emerging capabilities in the fields of nano-science, information science, and biology into a nanotechnology program focused on unique NASA needs that will revolutionize the way the agency conducts its aerospace missions within a decade.

**Nanotechnology is the science of creating functional materials, devices and systems through control of matter on the nanometer (atomic) scale and the exploitation of novel phenomena and properties at that length scale.**





# Revolutionary Computing Algorithms



FY02 Distribution (\$2.6M)

## Goal:

- Develop new *models of computation* that increase capability and robustness to enable future NASA space missions

## Technology Development Highlights

- Information representation schemes based on examples in biology and quantum physics
- Co evolutionary search
- Cerebellum models for robot control
- Data search and computation using molecular self-assembly
- Time synchronization using quantum entanglement
- Quantum computation algorithms for hard problems

## Impact

**Design  
Optimization  
Distributed control  
(2004-2006)**

**Robot control  
Exquisite detection  
(2005-2008)**

**Interferometry  
Planning & Scheduling  
Data search  
(2006-2010)**

## Applications/ Missions



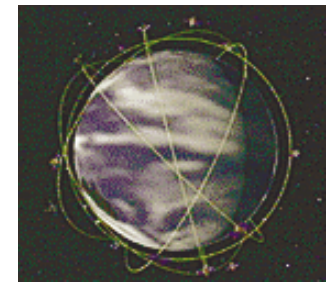
**Exploration**



**Titan Explorer**



**Europa Hydrobot**



**Sensor Web**



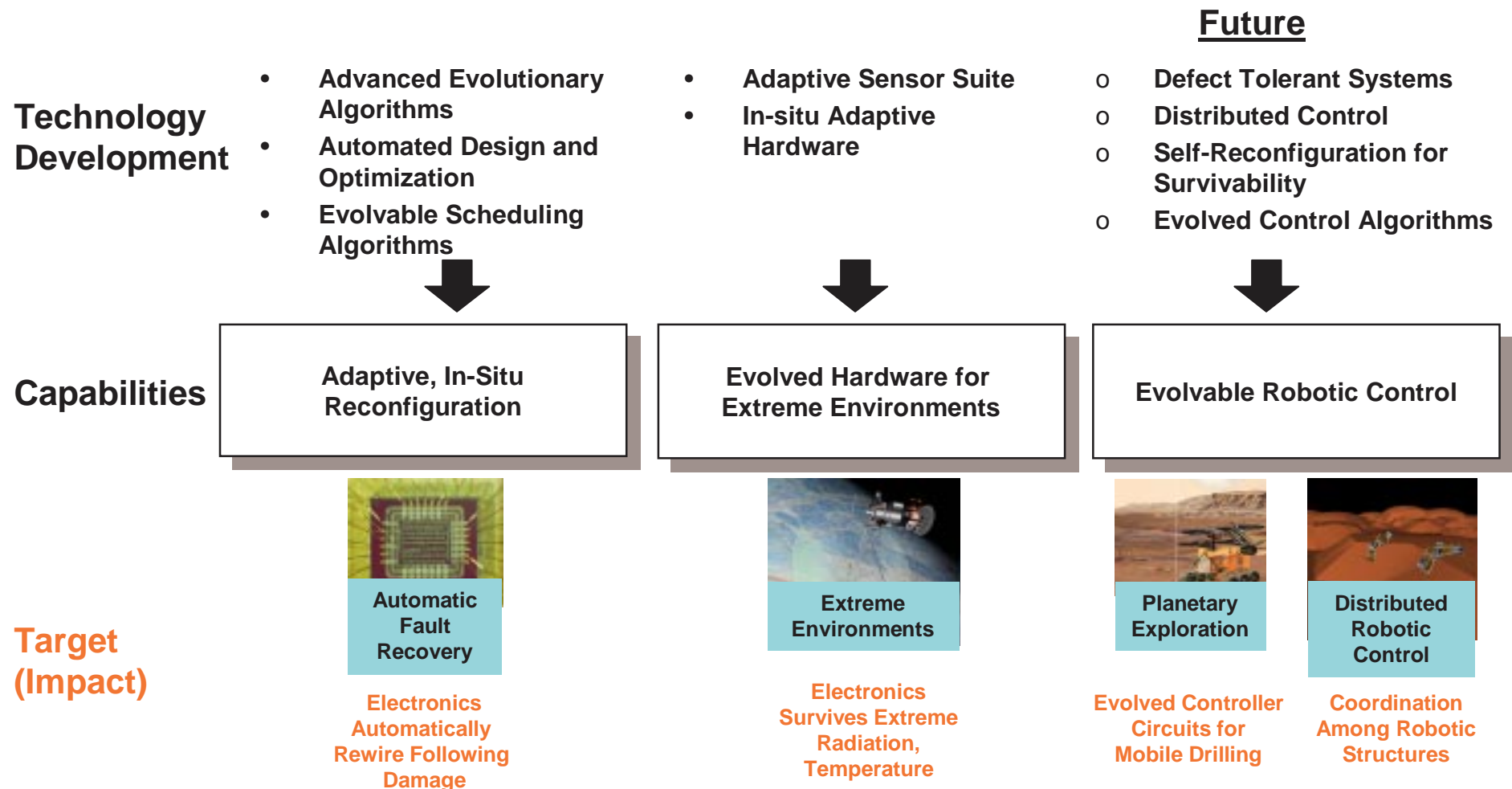
# Evolvable Systems

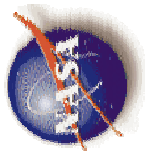


FY02 Distribution (\$600k)

## Goal:

“To dramatically increase mission survivability and science return through development and application of evolutionary and adaptive algorithms.”



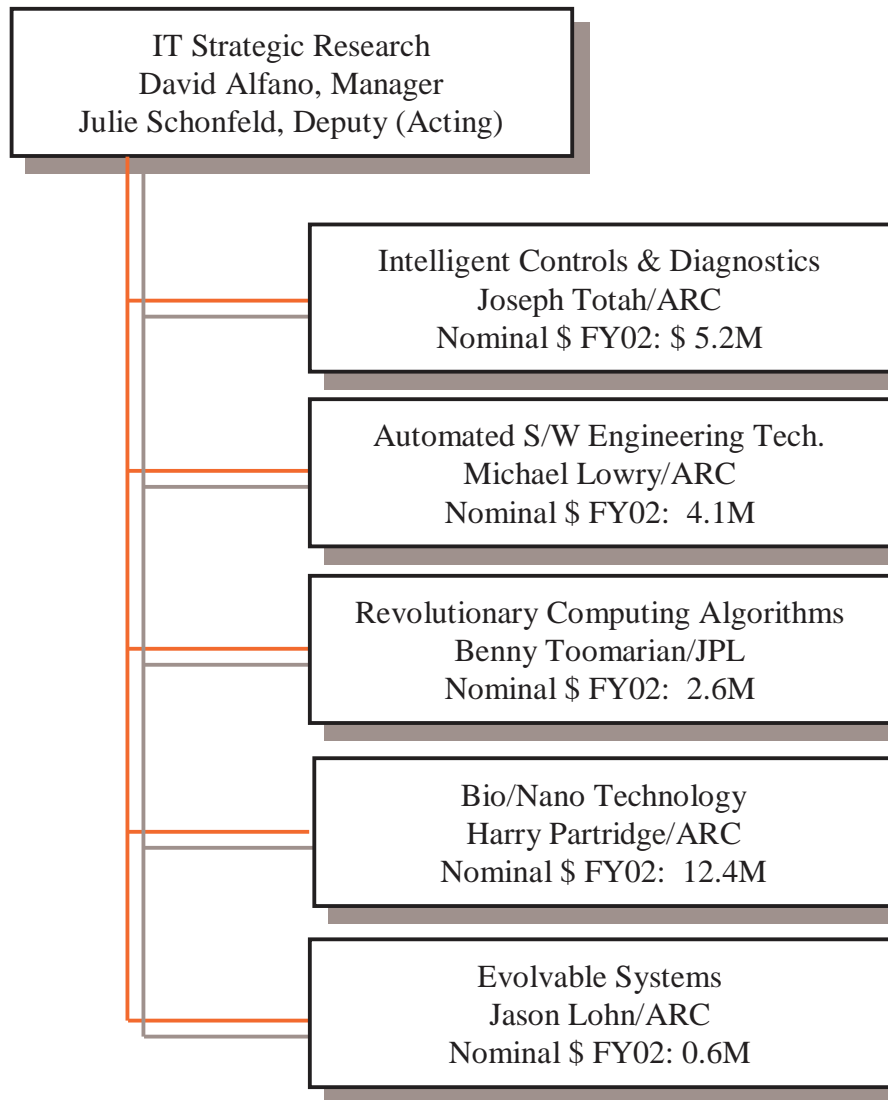


# Backup slides



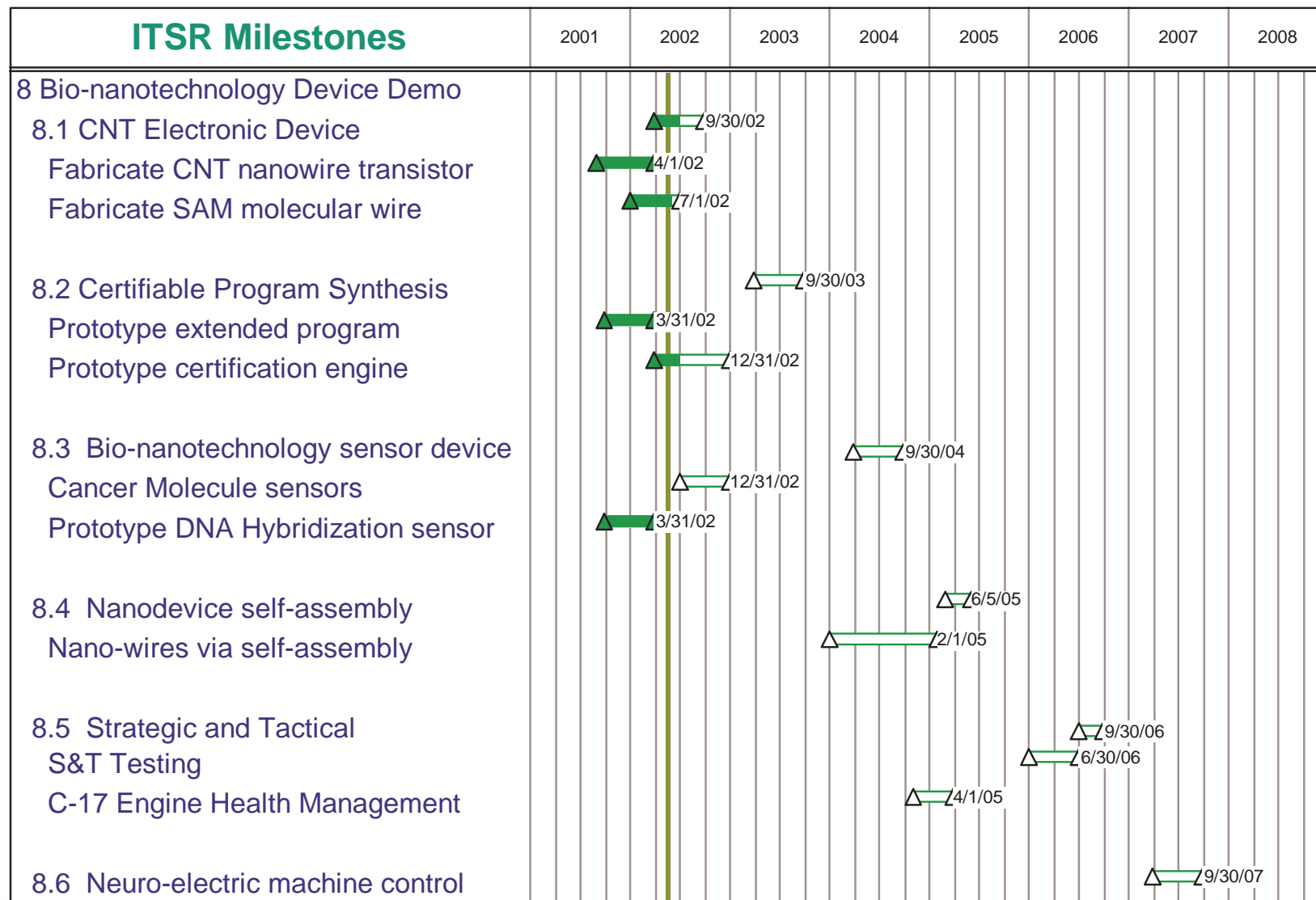


# ITSR Organization





# ITSR Level 1 Milestones

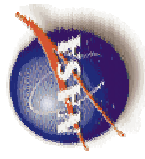




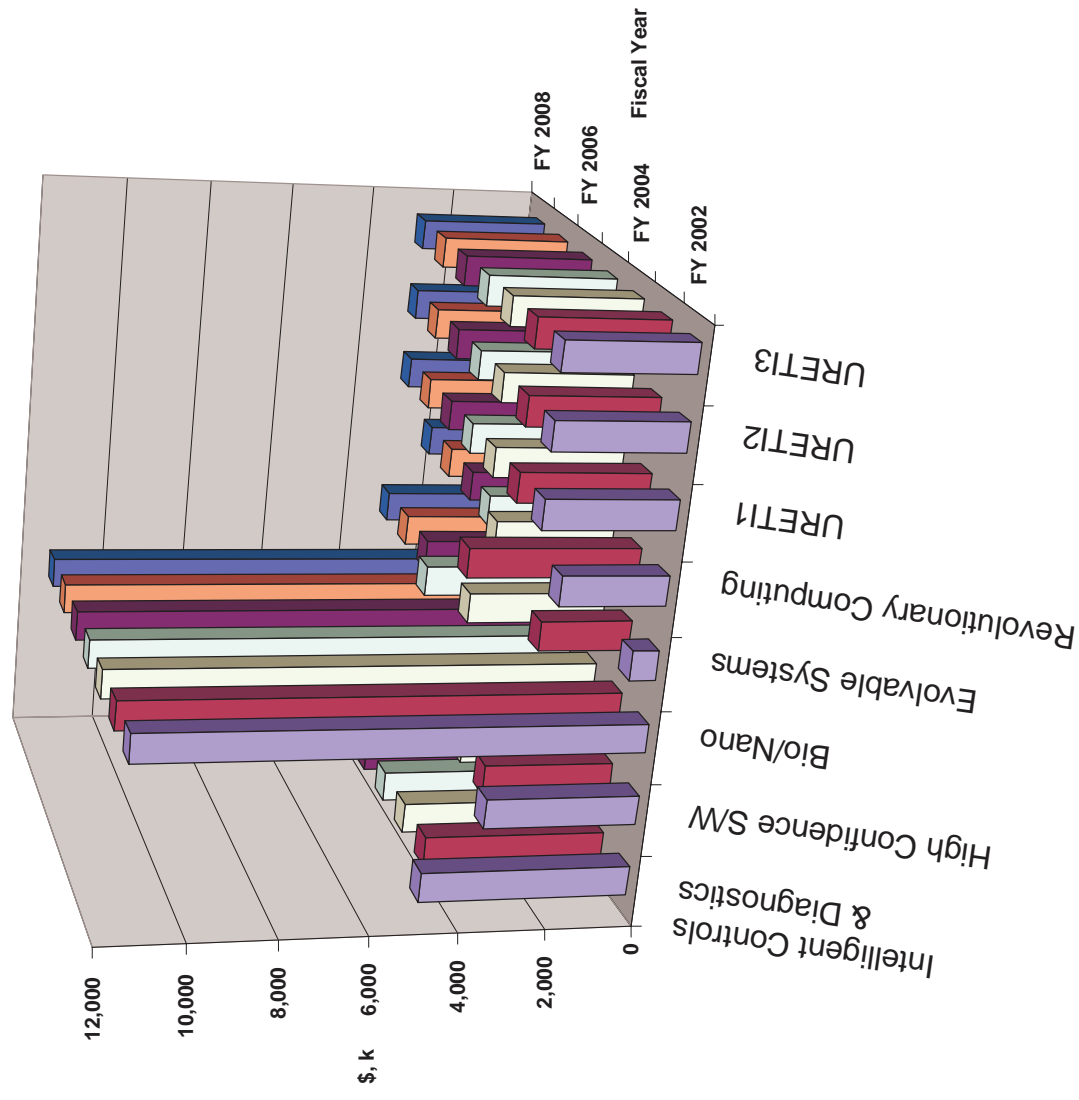
# ITSR Funding Profile - detail

3/22/02	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
<b>Information Technology Strategic Research</b>	<b>29,464</b>	<b>27,635</b>	<b>27,582</b>	<b>27,712</b>	<b>27,112</b>	<b>27,112</b>	<b>27,112</b>
Intelligent Controls and Diagnostics	4,800	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200
High Confidence Software	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Bio/Nano	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400	11,400
Evolvable Systems	600	2,100	3,212	3,712	3,212	3,212	3,212
Revolutionary Computing Algorithms	2,414	3,000	2,711	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,300
URETI- Nanocomputing Electronics	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
URETI- Bio/Nano/IT Fusion	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
URETI-Nanostructures & Devices	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000





# ITSR Funding Profile - Outyears



# Information Technology Strategic Research

## Contact Information



### Bio/Nano Technologies

*Harry Partridge*

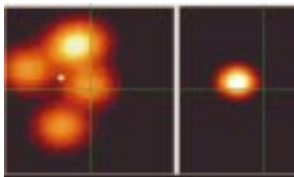
*hpartridge@mail.arc.nasa.gov*



### Evolvable Systems

*Jason Lohn*

*jlohn@mail.arc.nasa.gov*



### Revolutionary Computing

*Benny Toomarian*

*benny@cism.jpl.nasa.gov*

### IT Strategic Research Project Office:

**David Alfano, Manager**

**dalfano@mail.arc.nasa.gov**

**Julie Schonfeld, Deputy (Acting)**

**jschonfeld@mail.arc.nasa.gov**

### Automated Software Engineering Technologies

*Michael Lowry*

*mlowry@mail.arc.nasa.gov*

### Intelligent Controls & Diagnostics

*Joseph Totah*

*jtotah@mail.arc.nasa.gov*



Ames Research Center